

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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SUBJECT	Status of Milovan Djilas	DATE DISTR.	15 July 1955	
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1. Milovan Djilas has now been deserted by all his former supporters within the Federation of Communists of Yugoslavia (FCY). He is regularly observed walking by himself through the parks. On a few occasions he has been seen walking with a girl but no one has seen him accompanied on his walks by a man.
2. His ideas were supported primarily by the younger Party members, such as graduate students, journalists and teachers, and by Party members who are in charge of economic and business enterprises. Party intellectuals, such as engineers, professors and lawyers, supported Djilas only because they desired more freedom in their work. It is difficult to determine how much support Djilas received from the non-Communist population because the people favored him as a person who was advocating more political freedom. This does not mean that they supported him for the specific ideas he was presenting. Non-Party intellectuals were generally skeptical about Djilas' ideas because they were afraid of an FCY trap.

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3. The mild probationary sentences given to Djilas and Vladimir Dedijer have actually confused Party members and Nationalists alike, as they all expected more severe sentences. The only generally accepted conclusion concerning these light sentences was that the court pronounced the sentences prepared by the Executive Committee of the FCY. Non-Communist circles observed that the judge presiding at the trial had never before handled a trial, as he was previously a public prosecutor. They further observed that the penal code does not provide for probationary sentences for the acts committed by Djilas and Dedijer. However, the non-Communist intellectuals in Belgrade do not believe that these sentences can be considered

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as indicative of the future internal policy of the regime because of the position Djilas formerly held in the FCY. They feel that the whole affair was an internal Party problem which the Executive Committee of the FCY handled in a manner best suited to the interests of the Party.

4. The only public manifestation of sympathy and support for Djilas took place two days prior to and on the day of the trial when university students in Belgrade and Zemun organized protest meetings and demonstrations to air their personal grievances, and timed their demonstrations to the Djilas case for greater publicity. On the day of the trial, a mass of people waited for the sentence in front of the court in spite of the police measures to prevent access to the court.
5. There is no evidence available to indicate that the reopening of the Djilas case was linked to the "normalization" campaign with the Soviet Bloc. Nationalist intellectuals and their associates among the FCY members attributed the trial to Edvard Kardelj's determination to remove Djilas once and for all from the political scene.

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